

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
1887-1939, ELMWOOD, NORTH CAROLINA

By

John K. Fleming

285.1756793
F59 7h

HISTORY OF
Elmwood Presbyterian Church
1887 - 1939
ELMWOOD, NORTH CAROLINA



By
REV. JOHN K. FLEMING



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

North Carolina State Library
Raleigh

HISTORY OF
L3
Elmwood Presbyterian Church
1887 - 1939
ELMWOOD, NORTH CAROLINA



By
REV. JOHN K. FLEMING

PREFACE

There are several factors that make the history of a local Church. They are: the religious influences found among the early settlers of the community, the steps leading to and culminating in the Church's organization, the Pastoral administration of each Minister serving the Church, a record of the Church activities of the Elders and Deacons and of other leaders in the Church's work, the organized activities as embraced in the Church's program, and finally the out-reach of the Church's work in the streams of influence going out to other communities and Churches in the character and service of her sons and daughters. Out of the 275 persons who during the past fifty years have been members of Elmwood Presbyterian Church, approximately 84 have had some position of leadership or particular usefulness in one or more Churches and communities, or, have had special training by education for such.

To all who assisted me in gathering material for this paper, I am sincerely grateful. Every one from whom I sought information responded most cordially and promptly. Valuable information was obtained from the following:

Mr. J. W. Thompson, Clerk of Elmwood Session, who placed in my hands the Sessional Records, Volumes I and II, and the Church's Roll Book;

Rev. E. D. Brown, D. D., Pastor of Elmwood Church and Stated Clerk of Concord Presbytery, who gave me access to the Presbytery's Records;

Rev. S. M. Tenney, D. D., who supplied me with some important facts from records filed in The Historical Foundation of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Montreat, N. C.

Several Elmwood members and former members gave me important information. Of especial assistance in this matter was Mrs. W. C. Pou. Without her splendid help it would have been almost impossible to have gathered sufficient material for this writing.

The main body of this paper was read at the Semi-Centennial Celebration of Elmwood Presbyterian Church, July 25, 1939. But additional time was needed for obtaining some important facts, and that accounts for the little delay in printing. Its preparation has been a real pleasure to me.

John K. Fleming,
Mount Airy, N. C.,
Sept. 7, 1939.

THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Of the Organization of the
ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 25, 1939

Hymn	"Faith of Our Fathers"
Scripture	Rev. Earl F. Thompson
Invocation	Rev. W. L. Baker
Welcome Address	Rev. E. D. Brown, D. D.
Hymn	"How Firm a Foundation"
History of the Church	Rev. John K. Fleming
Special Music	Mrs. Elizabeth Cowan Pressly "The Lord Is My Shepherd"
Recognition of Former Pastors and Other Members—	Rev. John K. Fleming
Address	Rev. J. Harper Brady
Hymn	"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
Benediction	

OUTLINE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

1. Racial and Religious Influences in Western North Carolina.
2. Early Presbyterian Churches in Rowan and Iredell.
3. Third Creek—Mother Church of Elmwood.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

1. Historical Statement from Sessional Records.
2. The Church Constituted for Service.

II. MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED ELMWOOD CHURCH

1. Ministers who preached in Elmwood before the Church was organized: Rev. A. Walker White, and probably other Third Creek Pastors immediately preceding him, and Rev. T. J. Allison.

2. Pastors:

T. J. Allison	1888-1891
R. S. Arrowood	1891-1895
J. E. Summers	1901-1903
T. H. Spence	1905-1907
J. H. Brady	1915-1917
J. A. Smith	1917-1919
J. T. Hall	1919-1920
W. L. Baker	1921-1922
J. E. Robinson	1923-1928
E. D. Brown, D. D.	1929-

3. Stated Supplies:

W. J. Tidball	1903-1905
W. S. Wilhelm	1907-1909
Cornelius Miller	1909
L. H. Query	1910-1913
Rev. Noaker (Reformed Minister)	1914

III. CHURCH OFFICERS

1. Ruling Elders:

J. J. Long	1888-1901
Henry L. Fleming	1888-1923
Benjamin E. Arey	1888-1928
R. Thomas Cowan	1902-1910
Robert W. Pou	1910-1919
John A. Arey	1911-1916

John W. Thompson	1919-
Walter R. Byford	1920-1922
Samuel K. Carson	1920-
Parks R. Shell	1928-
Jacob H. Shuford	1934-

2. Deacons:	Year Installed
W. L. Gilbert	1888
J. A. Wolfe	1888
R. T. Cowan	1891
J. Avery Early	1902
J. Chap. Turner	1904
John A. Arey	1907
Ralph Fleming	1907
Jesse M. Arey	1909
James Anderson	1911
W. Clarence Pou	1916
G. W. Dry	1919
J. M. Bruner	1920
C. E. Reitzel	1934

3. Church Treasurers:

W. L. Gilbert
 J. Chap. Turner
 Jesse M. Arey
 Miss Estelle Fleming
 W. R. Byford
 J. M. Bruner
 C. E. Reitzel
 W. C. Pou

4. Trustees of the Church:

J. J. Long, E. E. Arey	Elected in 1888
B. E. Arey, J. A. Early	Elected in 1903
J. M. Arey, R. W. Pou, Ed Long	Elected in 1909
S. K. Carson, W. C. Pou, G. W. Dry	Elected in 1922

IV. ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES

1. Sunday School—Superintendents and Teachers.
2. Young People's Christian Endeavor Society.
3. The Woman's Auxiliary.
4. Music—Organists and Pianists for the Church.

V. GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

1. First Services in the J. J. Long Store.

2. The Chapel 1887-1911.
3. The Public School Building 1911-1914.
4. Construction of Church—Dedication—S. S. Rooms.
5. Efforts for a Cemetery.

VI. IN MINISTERIAL AND MISSIONARY SERVICE

1. In the Ministry:
 John Kerr Fleming—Ordained in 1922.
 Earl Fleming Thompson—Ordained in 1935.
2. A Foreign Missionary:
 Miss Allie May Arey—Missionary to Cuba.
3. A Home Missionary:
 Miss Lillie Fleming (Now Mrs. M. G. Lyerly)—Ten years
 full time service in Home Missions.

VII. LEADERS IN WIDER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Leaders In Church and Community Life.
 Public School Teachers.
 Journalists.
 Farm Demonstration Agents.
 Dairy Experts and Directors.
 Leaders in Home Economics.

CONCLUSION

1. Elmwood Fifty Years Ago and Today.
2. The Heritage—Wider Horizons, Bigger Opportunities.
3. "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

The early history of western North Carolina is largely the development of two groups of Colonial Settlers—namely the German and Scotch-Irish, who came, mostly from Pennsylvania. The German group settled for the most part on land west of the Catawba River, east of the Yadkin River, and in southern Rowan and Cabarrus Counties, while the Scotch-Irish settled in what is now western Rowan, part of Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Iredell Counties.

The earliest Presbyterian Churches in this region were Thyatira, Fourth Creek (First Presbyterian Church of Statesville), Third Creek, Bethany, Joppa (Mocksville), Unity and Back Creek. Later there came into being the following Churches: Franklin, Salisbury, Bethesda, and Fifth Creek. Surrounded therefore, as it was and is by these older Churches, one may very readily conclude that what is now the Elmwood community was from its earliest days inhabited by a predominant Scotch-Irish Presbyterian constituency.

The Congregations of Bethesda and Third Creek, and more especially that of Third Creek Church formed the immediate background for the organization of Elmwood Church.

It is not known by the writer just when the first Presbyterian services were held in Elmwood. In 1883 Rev. A. Walker White became the Pastor of Third Creek and Fifth Creek Churches. In 1884 Mr. George F. Shepherd deeded one acre of ground in Elmwood community to John G. Fleming, John W. Steele, William A. Luckey, John N. Phifer, and Robert N. Fleming, Trustees of Third Creek Church. Upon this lot near where Mr. J. H. Shuford's store now is, the Congregation of Third Creek erected a neat, comfortable manse, Rev. A. W. White being the first Minister to live in it. These details are related because there is good reason to believe that the residence of Third Creek Ministers here had much to do with the origin of the Elmwood Church. Mr. White had a schedule of regular services here, using the upper room of the J. J. Long Store building. This building, a wooden structure, is still used by Mr. Ed Long, who succeeded his father as manager of the Mercantile Business. Other Ministers before the time of Mr. White's Pastorate, may have preached here, too, but we do not have very definite information on that point. In 1887, the last year of Mr. White's residence here, a lot near the home of Mr. Avery Early was donated by Major P. B. Chambers, and upon it was erected the Elmwood Chapel, being at that time a part of the work of Third Creek Church. Regular services were then held in the new Chapel by Mr. White and the succeeding Ministers.

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

The following Historical Statement taken from Volume I Sessional Records, gives a full and accurate account of the organization of Elmwood Church:

"In the month of August and first part of September, 1888, a petition was circulated among the citizens of Elmwood, N. C., and surrounding community which received fifty-three signatures from persons, who, either desired the organization of a Presbyterian Church at Elmwood, N. C., or were favorable to such organization.

"This petition was presented to Concord Presbytery in session at Taylorsville, N. C., September 14-17, 1888, asking that a Commission be appointed to visit Elmwood, and organize a Church, if the way be clear. The Presbytery by unanimous vote, granted the request of the petitioners, and appointed on that Commission the following persons: Rev. W. A. Wood, D. D., Rev. William W. Pharr, Rev. J. A. Ramsay, The Honorable A. Leazar, John K. Graham, Esquire, Professor J. H. Hill, and Dr. J. R. B. Adams.

"This Commission met, pursuant to the call of the Chairman, in Elmwood Chapel, Elmwood, N. C., on December 12, 1888. All members of the Commission were present except Mr. Leazar.

"After the regular organization of the Commission, Elmwood Church was organized according to prescribed form in the Book of Church Order. The persons who entered into this organization, are the following: Mrs. M. M. Fleming, J. J. Gilbert, W. L. Gilbert and wife, Victoria Gilbert (and their baptized child, Mary Elizabeth), Mrs. M. M. Wood (and her baptized children, D. Burton and Leonidas Cowan), Miss Maggie N. Wood, James S. Wood, J. A. Wolfe and wife, Sarah J. Wolfe (and their baptized children, Joseph Blythe, James Hunter, Charles Howard, Alexander Burette, and Emma Cornelia), Miss Mary E. Nola Wolfe, R. T. Cowan and wife, Annie E. Cowan (and their baptized children, Benjamin Allen, Katie McNeill, James Knox, Annie, Thomas Howard, and Elmer Gillespie), Mrs. Matilda Poston, and Mrs. Lillie S. Childress on Certificate from Third Creek Church; Henry Fleming (and his baptized children, Margaret Jane, Annie Adelia, Ralph Harvev, and Laura Estelle), Benjamin E. Arey and wife, Mary Davis Arey (and their baptized children, Bessie May and John Allen), E. E. Arey and wife, Alice E. Arey (and their baptized children, Charles Cornelius, Lottie Raynor, Margaret, Loretta, Forest Herbert, William Floyd, Oscar Homer, Jessie Maryin, and Edwin Burton), Mrs. Sarah E. Beard; Mrs. Annie E. Hauser (and her baptized son, Claude Lee), and A. Franklin Beard, on Certificate from Bethesda Church; J. J.

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Long and wife, Mary Long, and Miss Cora A. Long, on Certificate from High Point Church; Mrs. Nettie Allison (and her baptized children, Thomas G. Allison, James C. Allison, and Charles Walter Allison) on Certificate from Mebaneville Church; Howard Banks on Certificate from Asheville Church; and Mrs. M. J. Arey, wife of B. E. Arey, on Certificate from Statesville Church.

"J. J. Long, Benjamin E. Arey and Henry Fleming were elected, ordained and installed as Elders. William L. Gilbert was elected, ordained and installed as Deacon. J. A. Wolfe was elected and installed as Deacon, having been a Deacon in Third Creek Church.

"This having been a mission on the border line between Third Creek Church and Bethesda Church, (but within the work of Third Creek Church), has been served by Rev. T. J. Allison since he assumed the Pastorate of Third Creek Church December 1, 1887. The Ministers who served Third Creek Church previous to the services of the present Pastor, and also of Bethesda Church had served this point, giving as much time as they could to it for several years. A Chapel was built and completed in the fall of 1887 on a lot of ground donated by Major P. B. Chambers. This community has been the place of residence for the Pastors of Third Creek Church for years."

Thus, Elmwood Church began its organized work in 1888 with a Minister, a membership of twenty-eight Charter Communicants and thirty baptized children, three Ruling Elders, and two Deacons.

II. MINISTERS—PASTORS AND STATED SUPPLIES

We will now consider the record of the various Ministers—Pastors and Stated Supplies of Elmwood Church. Elmwood's first Pastor was REV. THOMAS JOHNSTON ALLISON, who was born in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, May 30, 1849. He took his College work at Davidson, and graduated from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., in 1874. He was then licensed by Concord Presbytery, and the following year was ordained by Orange Presbytery. Before beginning his work here he had served the following Churches: Tarboro, Rockingham, Lumberton, and Mebaneville. As already noted, in December, 1887, he began his Pastorate of Third Creek and Fifth Creek Churches, and was the second Minister to live in the Third Creek Manse located in Elmwood community. Part of his work con-

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

sisted in conducting regular preaching services in the new Elmwood Chapel already erected. It was during the first year of his Ministry here that Elmwood was formally organized as a Church. He served this Church from December, 1888, through March, 1889, as Stated Supply. In April of that year the Church extended him a call for regular Pastoral services, promising the salary of \$120.00 per year which it paid regularly and in full. The Church had a steady and substantial growth in membership during this Pastorate which continued till the spring of 1891. In that year Mr. Allison became Evangelist for Savannah Presbytery, later serving Sugaw Creek, Belmont, Bryson, and Murphy Churches. In 1907 and 1908 he was Associate Editor of the Presbyterian Standard. He died in Charlotte, N. C., May 22, 1919.

REV. ROBERT S. ARROWOOD was Elmwood's second Pastor. Coming from his Ministry in Bethpage Church, he moved his family to Elmwood in the summer of 1891 and immediately began his Pastorate of Elmwood, Fifth Creek, Third Creek, Unity and Franklin Churches. His Pastoral duties continued here until November, 1895, when he moved into the Manse at Woodleaf. Resigning at Elmwood, he continued his services in the other Churches of the group until 1904.

J. E. SUMMERS: Mr. J. E. Summers, a Ruling Elder in Concord Church, who had been doing Mission work in Catawba and Iredell Counties in 1895, was licensed by Concord Presbytery in 1896, serving Fifth Creek and Elmwood as a Licentiate until 1901. On April 26, 1901, he was ordained to the full Gospel Ministry by a Commission from Presbytery in the Elmwood Church, Elmwood having extended him a call for his Pastoral services. The Third Creek Manse having burned while it was vacant in 1896, Mr. Summers lived on the B. E. Arey farm back of the Arey home. He served this Church until the fall of 1903 when he accepted a Pastorate in Mecklenburg Presbytery. Later he moved to Poplar Tent Church where he died in 1914. It was while he was Pastor of Poplar Tent, 1907-1914, that he was Stated Clerk of Concord Presbytery. Mr. Summers was a very lovable man, and is remembered yet for his great interest in the children. During the last month of his Pastorate here in the fall of 1903, Rev. William Black, D. D., preached in a Meeting which was one of the greatest revivals experienced by Elmwood, about thirty people uniting with the Church. Quite a number of them, however, were from adjacent communities, and immediately transferred their membership to their respective family Churches.

REV. W. J. TIDBALL became the Stated Supply of Elmwood in the fall of 1903, serving this Church along with Taylorsville

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

and Mocksville until the spring of 1905. Mr. Tidball had excellent gifts as a teacher. In addition to his experience as Pastor in several fields, he had for a period of five years been Professor of Hebrew and New Testament Exegesis in Austin Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas. All who knew him were impressed by his profound scholarship.

The next Pastor was REV. T. H. SPENCE, who began his work here in the summer of 1905. This marked the beginning of his Pastorate also of Third Creek, Unity, and Cleveland Churches. This was Mr. Spence's first field of service after graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary. Born in Ulster, Ireland, a Protestant of Protestants, he brought to his work many of the great qualities of the Scotch-Irish, such for instance as deep religious convictions, loyalty to a great cause, and steadfastness in the faith. Mr. Spence resigned in 1907. His later Pastorates were in Smithfield, N. C., and Rocky River Church in Cabarrus County. His last work was as Stated Supply of Patterson Church near Concord, N. C., where he died in 1937.

Elmwood now entered upon its longest period of Pastoral vacancy, extending from 1907 to 1915, though during most of that time it had the regular services of Stated Supplies. REV. W. S. WILHELM came in that capacity in 1907, preaching also for Fifth Creek, Bethesda, Troutman, and Barium Springs Churches. In 1909 he gave up his work here that he might become the Pastor of the Little River group of Churches in Orange Presbytery.

In the fall of 1909 the Session entered into arrangements with Presbytery's Home Mission Committee to employ REV. CORNELIUS MILLER as temporary Supply, he having accepted a call to Third Creek Church. But about that time there was a complete breakdown in Mr. Miller's health which prevented his serving this Congregation.

REV. L. H. QUERY was the next Stated Supply, coming in 1910 and serving till the spring of 1913. During this time he was Pastor of Fifth Creek Church.

During the summer of 1913 the Church was supplied through the services of Mr. J. Harper Brady, then a student in Union Theological Seminary. In the year 1914 Rev. Noaker, a Minister of the Reformed Church, living in Salisbury, supplied the Pulpit.

In the summer of 1915 the long period of Pastoral vacancy was broken through the coming of REV. J. HARPER BRADY to this, his first Pastorate which included also Fifth Creek and Bethesda Churches. He had already endeared himself to the people through the fine summer's work of 1913. So now, the Church entered upon an era of remarkable interest in spiritual things. The little paper, "*My Helper*," which Mr. Brady edited and published from

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

time to time, was a source of much good in stimulating the people's interest and keeping them informed on matters of importance and progress in the three Churches of this Pastorate. His revival of the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society, his promotion of the work of the Woman's Auxiliary in its early stages, and his zeal in raising funds with which to help pay off the Building Debt—all these, together with his fine example of Christian earnestness and thorough consecration—meant much in the development of the Church's work and to its interest in the various Kingdom enterprises. Mr. Brady remained in this work until the summer of 1917. He then resigned, and sailed for the Far East, where ever since he has been an efficient Missionary of the Gospel to Japan.

In October, 1917, REV. J. A. SMITH was installed as Pastor of Elmwood Church. He came to this work from the Synod of South Carolina, though in early life he had been a Minister in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Suffering a partial stroke of Paralysis, he gave up the work of Elmwood in 1919. His death came in 1923. He was regarded as an excellent preacher, and was much beloved by the people of his Churches.

REV. J. T. HALL, then Pastor of Third Creek Church, served Elmwood as Stated Supply during the summer of 1919. In the fall of that year he accepted a call from Elmwood Church to become its Pastor. He had been a Missionary to Cuba, and manifested much of the Missionary's zeal in his labors here. It was under his administration that the new Church was finally completed, Pews and Sunday School Rooms also being constructed. In the fall of 1920 Mr. Hall resigned his Pastorate here that he might accept work in Lafayette Presbytery.

The Church was now without the services of a regular Pastor from September, 1920, until May, 1921. During part of the fall season REV. W. T. WALKER, Superintendent of Barium Springs Orphanage, supplied the Church. His counsel and services were a great help during this vacancy. It may be noted that he did not serve strictly as a Stated Supply, that is, he was not employed as such, his duties at the Orphanage being too numerous to allow him to take on this responsibility. Rather his services especially timely and helpful during the week, October 17-24. During that week Dr. William Black, Synod's Evangelist, preached here in another Meeting, which, in many respects, was even more far reaching in its results than the one in 1903. With him were his Song Leader, Mr. Burr, and also Miss Margaret Overcash, from Statesville, who served as Pianist for the Meeting. These services drew the largest attendance ever assembled in this Church. The fine spiritual influences of this Meeting were felt in many ways. Besides cultivating a very earnest devotional life in the members of the Church, and leading a large

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

number of Christians to a sincere reconsecration, this Meeting reached twenty-five people in a Profession of Faith, a number of Churches receiving members through these results. At the conclusion of the Meeting the Session wrote into its records a deep appreciation for the great blessings that came to the Church and community through Dr. Black's campaign of Evangelism.

Elmwood's next Pastor was REV. W. L. BAKER, who came in the spring of 1921, serving also Cleveland and Bethesda Churches. He continued until the fall of 1922 when he accepted calls to Candor and Biscoe Churches in Mecklenburg Presbytery. He is now Pastor of Union Church, Gastonia, N. C. Mr. Baker's sound Gospel preaching, his able leadership, and good judgment meant much to the life and work of this Church.

REV. J. E. ROBINSON was the next Pastor, coming in the spring of 1923. He was also the Pastor of Third Creek and Bethesda Churches. His work continued here until 1928 when he resigned to accept the Clinchfield Mission work near Marion, N. C. Mr. Robinson labored here with great evangelistic zeal and with good success, he himself doing the preaching in most of his revival meetings. It was during his Pastorate that this Church reached its highest peak in amount raised on Pastor's Salary, \$420.00 per year. Mr. Robinson, who has since gone to his glorious reward, was a faithful Pastor, sound and evangelical in his preaching, and was well liked by the Congregation. As a devoted member of this Church has said: "He was so earnest, such a hard worker. He made a person just want to be a Christian."

Since the summer of 1929 REV. E. D. BROWN, D. D., has been the faithful and efficient Pastor of this flock, having the confidence and love of all the people. Dr. Brown's Pastorate thus far of ten years, has the distinction of being the longest that Elmwood has yet had in her history of half a century. Besides his Pastoral duties, Dr. Brown renders valuable service to the Church in many other ways. In 1922 he was Moderator of the Synod of North Carolina. He has several times been a Commissioner to the General Assembly, is a member of the Board of Trustees of Davidson College, also of Union Theological Seminary, and is Stated Clerk of Concord Presbytery.

Elmwood has thus, in fifty years been served by ten Pastors and four Stated Supplies.

III. OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

1. *Ruling Elders.* A study of the Sessional Records shows that from the very beginning of the organized work of this Church, the members of the Session have been men of earnest

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

faith, of upright Christian character, who took seriously their duties as Officers of the Church. They have largely been influential men, men of ability, who have not only served faithfully and efficiently their Church and community here, but some of them have rendered a large service to the State in specialized work.

We have already noted that on the day the Church was organized in 1888, the Congregation elected three men to the Eldership, and that they were ordained and installed by Presbytery's Commission. These were BENJAMIN E. AREY, HENRY L. FLEMING, and J. J. LONG, men of consecration and prayer, men who were earnestly devoted to the cause of their Saviour. Mr. Long had moved from High Point, N. C. Coming to Elmwood, he established himself in business as a merchant. He was also Postmaster for the little village. Immediately after the Church was organized, he was elected Clerk of the Session, and served efficiently in that capacity for thirteen years until his death in 1901. His death was greatly mourned by his fellow Church Officers and members. Mr. Arey and Mr. Fleming were farmers, citizens of the finest type, men whose example and influence counted for righteousness in their community. They served their Church long and well as Elders, Mr. Fleming's death occurring in 1923 and that of Mr. Arey in 1928.

One of Elmwood's most faithful Officers was MR. R. T. COWAN who was elected, ordained and installed to the Eldership in 1902. He died in 1910, having been a Ruling Elder for eight years. During the whole period of his Eldership he was Clerk of the Session, and for a much longer period was Superintendent of the Sunday School.

R. W. POU was made an Elder in 1910 and served as such till he moved in 1919 to Winston-Salem, N. C. In him the Church had a wise counsellor, an able leader, a good teacher of the Scriptures, and an influential man always interested in promoting the public good. While Mr. Pou was here he was Superintendent of the Kilgo Farm, formerly known as the Chambers Plantation. In 1919 he became Farm Demonstration Agent for Forsyth County. He has continued his active interest in religious work, and has taught the Bible Class in the Reynolda Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, N. C., since he removed to Forsyth County in 1919.

In 1911 JOHN A. AREY was elected and ordained an Elder. He served faithfully in that office till 1916 when his work required a change of residence. The records show that for several years he acted in the capacity as Clerk of the Session. He graduated from State College in 1909, where he specialized in Agriculture and Dairying. In 1910 he took a year of Post-Graduate work in State College, serving also as one of the Instructors dur-

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ing the year. In 1912 he took a special course in Dairy work in Washington, D. C. For the next four years he was Farm Demonstration Agent for Iredell County. Moving to Raleigh, N. C., in 1916, he was made Director of the Dairy Division of the North Carolina Extension Service. He holds that position today.

The election of J. W. THOMPSON to the Eldership came in 1919. Mr. Thompson is a successful and progressive farmer. Immediately after becoming an Elder he was made Clerk of the Session, and is today faithfully serving his Church in that capacity. His term of service as Clerk has thus far been the longest of anyone in this Church.

In 1920 Messrs. W. R. BYFORD and S. K. CARSON were elected Elders. Mr. Byford is a native of England, but has spent most of his life in this country. He was formerly with the Statesville Show Case Company, and is now a representative of the Morrison Furniture Company. Mr. Byford served faithfully as Elder. In the fall of 1922 he transferred his membership to Front Street Church, Statesville, N. C., later moving his membership to Christ's Episcopal Church, Cleveland, N. C. Mr. Carson has continued his relationship as a member of this Session. His ability as a leader, and as a teacher of the Bible have been of great benefit in the work of this Church.

P. R. SHELL, who is Freight and Passenger Agent for the Southern Railway Company, whose work was formerly in Elmwood and now is in Conover, was made an Elder in 1928. He is serving faithfully in the Eldership today. His quiet and unassuming life, and his interest in the things that make for the betterment of the community, these provide a good wholesome influence so helpful to one's generation.

The last election of an Elder in this Church was that of J. H. SHUFORD, which took place in 1934. His experience as a business man along with his active interest in the work of the Kingdom, make him a useful vessel for his Lord.

So, during the last fifty years in the life of Elmwood Church there have been eleven Ruling Elders. The members of the Session at present are: J. W. Thompson, Clerk; S. K. Carson, P. R. Shell, and J. H. Shuford.

2. *Deacons.* During most of the time for the past fifty years, Elmwood has had some Diaconate Service, though during much of the time it has not had as many Deacons as Elders. Some who had once been Deacons were later made Elders, including R. T. Cowan and John A. Arey.

The following men have served as Deacons here: W. L. Gilbert and J. A. Wolfe, elected in 1888; R. T. Cowan in 1891, J. A. Early in 1902, J. Chap Turner in 1904, John A. Arey

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

and Ralph Fleming in 1907, Jesse M. Arey in 1909, James Anderson, a young Scotchman, in 1911, W. C. Pou in 1916, G. W. Dry in 1919, J. M. Bruner in 1920, and C. E. Reitzel in 1934. The present Deacons are W. C. Pou and C. E. Reitzel.

3. *Church Treasurers.* Those who have served as Treasurer of this Church have been: W. L. Gilbert, J. Chap Turner, James Anderson, J. M. Arey, W. R. Byford, J. M. Bruner, W. C. Pou, P. R. Shell, and C. E. Reitzel. One of the most efficient treasurers was Miss Estelle Fleming, who, by request of the Session, served in that capacity for several years. At the time of her resignation in 1920, the Session by resolution recorded its deep appreciation for her faithful and consecrated services as Treasurer of the Church. There may have been others who served as Treasurer whose names we are unable to recall at this late day.

4. *Trustees of the Church.* The Trustees of the Church have been: E. E. Arey and J. J. Long elected in 1888; B. E. Arey and J. A. Early in 1903; J. M. Arey, R. W. Pou and Ed Long in 1909; S. K. Carson, W. C. Pou and G. W. Dry in 1922.

IV. ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES

Though the scope of Elmwood's work has always been small, yet its members have ever been active both in study and in promotion of the various causes of the Church.

From the very first the Church has had a *Sunday School* which has continued through all these years without the lapse of a single month. The first action of the Session on December 15, 1888, was the appointment of Mr. E. P. Penick as Superintendent of the Sunday School, with Mr. Howard A. Banks as Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer. At that time Mr. Banks, son of a Presbyterian Minister, was teaching school in the Elmwood community. He was a graduate of Davidson College. Later Davidson conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Literature. In after years when his literary ability had received wide recognition, he rose to national prominence—first in the Navy Department as Private Secretary to Josephus Daniels, and later as Editor of the Sunday School Times, published in Philadelphia. He became the most distinguished and renowned man among all the people who have been members of Elmwood Church. Following Messrs. Penick and Banks, other men who have served as Superintendent of this Sunday School have been: Henry L. Fleming, J. J. Long, E. E. Arey, R. T. Cowan, R. W. Pou, James Anderson, W. C. Pou, Claude Thompson, S. K. Carson, Cecil Kinder, and J. H. Shuford. Mr. Shuford is the present Superintendent, whose faithfulness and devotion to duty are much appreciated.

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As compared with many other Sunday Schools, the *Teachers* here have been an unusually faithful group. After fifty years, it is perhaps impossible to recall the names of all who have helped in this work, but the following are known to have served as teachers in the Elmwood Sunday School: Messrs. R. T. Cowan, R. W. Pou, James Anderson, John A. Arey, John K. Fleming, W. C. Pou, S. K. Carson, Joe Bill Pou, J. W. Thompson, Jr.; Mesdames H. L. Fleming, B. E. Arey, E. E. Arey, J. M. Bruner, Lottie Arey Walker, Lola Arey Long, J. A. Early, Bessie Arey Cowan, Helen Long Gullledge, Katie Cowan Atwell, Mary Arey Pou, Beulah Arey Eubanks, Ney Templeton, W. R. Byford, Ruth Fleming Bruner, S. K. Carson, Lottie Fleming Bruner, C. E. Reitzel, Kate Fleming Thompson, Ruth Isenhour Thompson, Mary Wood Thompson Di Costanzo, J. H. Shuford, Loyce Clendenin Kinder, and Misses Margaret Houck, Mary Davis Pou, Lois Shell Fesperman, Sallie Hair, Estelle Fleming, Edith Robinson, Catherine Thompson.

Sunday School Library. A matter of very great importance and which aroused considerable interest was the Sunday School Library, which seems to have been established somewhere between 1890 and 1900. In those years practically none of the Rural Public Schools had any Library service, and it could rarely be found even in the larger Sunday Schools. It is thought that the Elmwood Sunday School Library was the first one established in this section of the country. In this Library were religious books, also books in the field of general classical literature of the highest character. These were loaned to members of the Sunday School, a regularly appointed Librarian keeping definite records. One of the first Librarians was Allen Cowan. He gave a good many years in this important service. Why this Library service was finally discontinued, we do not know. But it was most likely due to the fact that small libraries began to be established in all the Public Schools, and so, provided wider opportunities to the children and young people in their general reading.

Christian Endeavor Society. In the spring of 1910 a Young People's Christian Endeavor Society was organized which functioned until about 1925. This organization afforded fine opportunities to the young people for training in leadership, expression of ideas, and development of the devotional life.

The Woman's Auxiliary in this Church had its beginning in 1915. In March of that year Mrs. E. D. Brown, then living in Loray, N. C., came and organized the women of this Church. From that time on, the Woman's Work in Elmwood Church has been affiliated with the Concord Presbyterian Auxiliary. It is organized according to the Assembly's Plan of Woman's Work under which our women study and contribute to all the causes

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of the Church. As we shall see in another paragraph, they had a glorious part in helping with construction of the Church Building. The earliest records of the Auxiliary have been lost, but enough is recalled by the members so that a full list of the first Officers can be given here. They were: President, Mrs. Mary Arey Pou; Vice President, Mrs. Ney Templeton; Secretary, Mrs. Ruth Fleming Bruner, and Treasurer, Miss Estelle Fleming. The present Officers are: President, Mrs. Kate Fleming Thompson; Vice President, Mrs. Mary Arey Pou; Secretary, Mrs. Blanche Steele Reitzel, and Treasurer, Mrs. J. H. Shuford. The Auxiliary has just concluded the best year it has had in six years or longer, having contributed in the Church Year 1938-1939 a total of \$152.00 to all purposes.

Music has an important place in the devotional and worship life of any Church, and this fact has not been overlooked by the people of Elmwood Church. From time to time an acquaintance with the great hymns was cultivated through regular weekly gatherings of the young people and also older members for singing. A Singing School in which shaped notes were taught was held about 1891 or 1892. A second Singing School conducted by Mr. Joe Leonard, a singing school master, was held in 1905 or 1906. This was of great benefit in the life of the Church.

During most of her life the Church has had the use of some kind of musical instrument in its public worship. Mr. J. A. Wolfe led the singing before an organ was procured. The Wolfe family has since moved to the state of Texas. Sometime in the early "90's" a little box organ was obtained and this was used for several years. It was perhaps about the year 1900 that a new organ was bought. For a number of years the Church has had a nice piano, the one that is used now.

According to best recollections the following have been regular Organists and Pianists: Mesdames W. L. Gilbert, Bessie Arey Cowan, May Dotson Steele, Fannie Long Norwood, Lola Arey Long, Beulah Arey Eubanks, Lottie Fleming Bruner, Pauline Shell Beaver, and Misses Bertha Hair and Kate Robinson. Also, the following gave considerable time in playing for the Church Services: Misses Mag Stein, Emma Shepherd, Mary McNeely, Lois Shell Fesperman and Mrs. Mary Wood Thompson Di Costanzo.

V. GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

As already noted, the *First Presbyterian Services* prior to 1887 were held in the upper room of Mr. J. J. Long's Store Building. Mr. Long being not only an influential citizen, but being actively interested in religious work and devoted to his Church, gladly

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

and freely gave this space for services until a building more suitable for public worship could be obtained.

The Chapel. The lot on which the Chapel was erected in 1887, was donated by Major P. B. Chambers. Men of the community went into the woods, cut down trees and had them sawed into lumber, and in fact, did most of the work in construction of the Chapel. When definite plans had been made for the new and permanent structure for worship, the lot together with the Chapel were sold to Mr. Avery Early. The Chapel building is used today as a barn.

The Church Building. A Building Fund for the new Church was started about 1900 or soon thereafter, Mrs. Lola Arey Long securing the first subscriptions.

About 1898 and continuing approximately twenty years, the Sunday School had an annual picnic in the beautiful Shepherd Grove near the Railway Station. In its early years it was attended by large numbers of people. Ice Cream and Lemonade were sold at these picnics, the proceeds being divided equally between the Building Fund and Barium Springs Orphanage. A group of children from the Orphanage always came over to the picnic and gave an interesting program.

On November 18, 1909, in a Congregational Meeting moderated by Rev. C. A. Monroe, a Building Committee was appointed composed of Jesse M. Arey, R. W. Pou, and Ed Long.

In 1911 the old lot and Chapel having been sold, all Church services and meetings were held in the Elmwood Public School Building for the next three years. The lot on which the Church now stands was given by the family of R. T. Cowan. An additional plot of ground adjoining the one given by the Cowans, was donated by the George F. Shepherd heirs. The two lots contain ample space for all necessary buildings and a Cemetery.

Construction on the Church was started in the fall of 1913 under the active direction of J. M. Arey, Chairman of the Building Committee. In the early stages of construction a great deal of work was donated by the members, while the work requiring skilled labor was done through a contract given to Mr. Leroy Steele, of Statesville, N. C. The dimensions of the building are 40x90 feet. By the spring of 1914 construction had progressed to the point where the building could be used. Much of the inside work, including the finished flooring and overhead ceiling, remained to be done. A great deal of this was done at various intervals during the next few years. In the meantime the Officers of the Church had borrowed five hundred dollars from Mr. James Knox to help bring the building to the place where it could be used. In the summer of 1917 the Woman's Auxiliary asked for the privilege of carrying the Knox note. This being agreed to,

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Harper Brady, who had just resigned as Pastor, was invited to participate in the Dedictory Services. He returned, therefore, before sailing to Japan, and preached the Dedication Sermon. It was a day of great rejoicing in the life of this Church.

After such a long period of time, it is rather difficult at this writing, to determine the full cost of the building. In 1914 it was thought that the building when complete, would cost from three thousand to three thousand five hundred dollars. The money was raised in various ways, such as proceeds from the Sunday School Picnics, from Ice Cream Suppers, and Bazaars, from a play given by members of the Church in 1916 entitled "From Far Japan," Special Collections, Subscriptions, etc. In 1919 the Session and members of the First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury gave \$140.00 toward final completion of the Church, construction of the Pews and Sunday School Rooms. This was supplemented by new donations from members of the Elmwood Church, so that when the work was fully completed no indebtedness remained. The construction work handled in 1919 was done through a contract given to Mr. J. M. Bruner. In all this building effort which covered a good many years, there was much sacrifice, proving the spirit of real devotion to the Church on the part of its members.

The Cemetery. Through all these years members of Elmwood Church have had in mind the definite establishment of a Cemetery. As early as August, 1890, the Session met and "Appointed the following persons to select a suitable place for a Grave Yard at this place: B. E. Arey, W. L. Gilbert, and J. J. Long." On February 5, 1891, there is this Minute in the Sessional Records: "The Committee appointed to look after a suitable place for a Cemetery, reported that such grounds could be obtained of Mr. J. J. Gilbert. After which a Congregational Meeting was called to meet at the Chapel Wednesday night, February 11, 1891." And following the account just given from the Sessional Records, I quote here the recollections of Mr. Allen Cowan on this matter. "About 1890 or 1892 the Officers as well as the members of Elmwood Church decided the Church should have a Burying Ground. A Committee was named to select and purchase a site. To the best of my recollection, Mr. J. J. Gilbert donated one acre of ground for this purpose. The location of same was about one-fourth of a mile west of the old Cowan place in the pines. The members of the Church gathered and cleared the ground. Roads entering from east and west were repaired, etc. The first grave was that of an infant, and the second that of a lady. Both were of the community, though neither, I think, had any connection with Elmwood Church. The third grave, and first member of Elmwood Church buried here, was of Hubert

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Arey, baptised son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Arey. Some years after, largely due, I believe, to location of the burying ground, many lost interest in same. Mr. E. E. Arey purchased a lot in Oakwood Cemetery in Statesville, and moved the remains of his son Hubert there. The next person buried in the cemetery was my mother, Annie Knox Cowan, whose body was later moved to the cemetery at Third Creek Church. No others were buried there, that I know of, and in a few years the burying ground was abandoned, possibly around 1895. The land reverted back to the Gilberts." As pointed out on another page, the ground occupied at present and given by the Cowan and Shepherd Families, is ample for all necessary buildings and a Cemetery. Hence, definite plans were made a few years ago by the Church for part of this ground to be used in Burial Purposes. In a regular Congregational Meeting held in the Church on February 12, 1922, this action was taken "To elect a Committee of three for the purpose of mapping out and arranging for a Cemetery, the Committee to consist of J. W. Thompson, J. M. Bruner, and Flake Davis."

VI. MEMBERS ENTERING MINISTERIAL AND MISSIONARY WORK

Two former members of Elmwood Church are today in the Gospel Ministry, and two of its ladies have entered into Missionary work. A brief sketch of each is given here.

JOHN KERR FLEMING was born near Elmwood, N. C., in 1892. He united with Third Creek Church when a boy, and in 1914 moved his membership to Elmwood. His High School work was done at Mount Ulla, N. C., and Pikeville, N. C., after which he attended Davidson College. During the World War he served with the American Expeditionary Forces, first in Company B, 306th Military Police, and later in Headquarters Company, 155th Infantry. Returning from France in 1919, he entered Union Theological Seminary from which he graduated in 1922. He was licensed by Concord Presbytery and ordained by Wilmington Presbytery. He was Pastor at Acme, N. C., 1922 to 1924; Gilbert, West Virginia, 1925 to 1926; and Thomasville, N. C., 1926 to 1934. In 1935 he accepted a call to Flat Rock Church, Mount Airy, N. C., and is serving in that field today.

The other member of Elmwood Church entering the Ministry was EARL FLEMING THOMPSON, who was born near Elmwood, N. C., in 1909. In 1919 he united with Third Creek Church, and a few weeks later transferred his membership to Elmwood. He graduated from Davidson College in 1931 and from Union Seminary in 1934. He was licensed by Concord Presby-

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

tery in September, 1934, serving for the next six months as Stated Supply of Front Street Church, Statesville, N. C. He was ordained by Kings Mountain Presbytery May 5, 1935, and for the next two years was Pastor of Union Mills and Brittain Churches. His present Pastorate is that of Lake Waccamaw and Ashwood Churches in Wilmington Presbytery, which he accepted in 1937.

The one member of Elmwood Church who has entered the active work of Foreign Missions is MISS ALLIE MAY AREY. The daughter of E. E. Arey, and member of one of the most loyal Christian homes of the community, she united with this Church on Profession of Faith in 1903. She graduated from Mitchel College about the year 1910 or 1911, later taking Post-Graduate work in the University of Alabama, and White's Bible School, New York. She thus entered upon her life's work splendidly equipped, both with consecration and devotion to high ideals, and with excellent educational qualifications. She has been a Missionary to Cuba since about the year 1918, serving as a teacher in the Presbyterian School of Cordenas, Cuba. She has had part on the program of many Foreign Mission Conferences and other Church Meetings in this country, and has spoken in every state except two.

Elmwood has also had one member to devote considerable time in Home Mission work. This is MRS. LILLIE FLEMING LYERLY. When a small girl she united with Third Creek Church, and later transferred her membership to Elmwood. She graduated from Mitchel College in 1917 and devoted the next two years to teaching, one year as Principal of Central High School in Rowan County, and one year as Principal of the Wentworth High School, Wentworth, N. C. She then entered the Assembly's Training School from which she graduated in 1921. After pursuing her studies in Richmond, she devoted almost ten years to work in various Home Mission Fields, serving one summer in Carol County, Virginia, four years in Gilbert, West Virginia, and for five years as Director of Young People's Work in the Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, North Carolina.

VII. LEADERS IN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Elmwood Church has always been in the class of small Churches so far as the number of members is concerned. In this whole period of half a century the total number of those who have united with this Church on Profession of Faith and by Certificate, and including the Charter Members, is approximately 275. At no time does its membership seem to have exceeded 60. Its present membership is 40.

But though small in numbers, the Church's influence on her members has been of an unusually constructive kind both in

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

establishing them in the faith, and in equipping them for service. During this fifty year period, there has been, we might say, an over-lapping of three generations. And each of these generations as represented in the Elmwood Church, has produced a rather large proportion of men and women who have been outstanding in their influence, and in service rendered, both here and in various communities to which they have moved.

So, in addition to those considered as employees in the Church's work, we are glad to give an account of some of the wider educational activities of Elmwood's sons and daughters.

Attention has already been called to the respective fields of service of John A. Arey, R. W. Pou, and Dr. Howard A. Banks, and the several who are devoting their whole time as employees in the Church's work. A number of Elmwood people are now living in Statesville, N. C., and are continuing their Church activities and interest there. Allen Cowan moved to Statesville when quite a young man, and for years has been an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of that city. There he teaches a class of boys in the Sunday School. His brother, E. G. Cowan, is an Elder in the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Jesse M. Arey, who did such splendid work in directing construction of the Church building, is an Elder in Front Street Church.

A number of Elmwood members and former members have rendered outstanding service as Public School Teachers and as leaders in various other ways. One who deserves special mention was MRS. LOTTIE AREY WALKER, daughter of E. E. Arey. Early in life she gave her heart to Christ. Her act in uniting with the Church was more than a profession. It was a real sincere dedication of her whole self to the Lord. Wherever she went, as a Sunday School Teacher and in other ways, she always gave to the Church her best and whole-hearted service. She graduated from the Woman's College in Greensboro, formerly known as the State Normal College. She then taught in the Schools of Davidson, North Carolina. In 1904 she became the wife of Rev. W. T. Walker, long the efficient Superintendent of Barium Springs Orphanage. One of the Cottages in that institution is named in her honor—"The Lottie Walker Cottage." She has now been dead several years. Throughout her lifetime her Christian influence was most effective. Her son, FRANK WALKER, is a baptized son of Elmwood, having been baptized by Dr. William Black in his second meeting here in October, 1920. Making his home in Elmwood part of the time, he has done splendid work in the Church here. He is now a student at Davidson College.

A sister of Mrs. Walker, MRS. LOLA AREY LONG, has already been recorded in this paper as having rendered a splendid service in helping to secure funds for the Church building, and as having

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

served as one of the Sunday School Teachers. Her College studies were pursued in the Woman's College in Greensboro. The daughter of Mrs. Long, MRS. HELEN LONG GULLEDGE, graduated from Mitchel College. Her home now is in Charlotte, North Carolina.

MRS. EDITH AREY WOMBLE, a sister of Mrs. Walker, graduated from Davenport College, and spent several years teaching in the Wagram Public School, Wagram, North Carolina. She is living there today.

Among the several former Elmwood Members attending Mitchel College, was MRS. MAGGIE WOOD (MRS. GEORGE R.) ANDERSON, a Charter Member of this Church. Always a devout Christian, since her marriage she has been a devoted and faithful member of Broad Street Methodist Church, Statesville, N. C. So far as we know, she is the only Charter member of Elmwood still living.

MISS CATHERINE THOMPSON was Valedictorian of her class in Mitchel College, also receiving in that institution the English Medal and the Wood Bible Medal. In 1938 she completed her work in the Graduate School of Nursing in Watts Hospital, Durham, North Carolina, and attained highest record in her class in the examination conducted by the State Board of Examiners.

MRS. LOTTIE FLEMING BRUNER, after attending Mitchel College, spent several years in Stenographic and Bookkeeping work in Statesville. In 1914 she entered the Teaching Profession, and during most of the time has taught in the Primary Department. Her work as teacher has been in the following schools: Bailey, Amity, Acme, Fairfield, Pikeville, Landis, and Cleveland, all in North Carolina. She is today a member of the Cleveland Faculty.

MRS. WILLIE FLEMING FLOWERS, now living in Pikeville, N. C., after attending Mitchel College, taught in the following Schools: Salem, Pine Grove, Fairfield, Acme, Pikeville, and Landis.

MRS. S. K. CARSON, before her marriage had been a Public School Teacher. During and after the World War she taught in the Elmwood School.

MISS EDITH ROBINSON, daughter of Rev. J. E. Robinson, attended Mitchel College, graduating from that institution. In addition to teaching in several other schools, she taught for several years in Cleveland School, Cleveland, N. C.

MRS. MARY WOOD THOMPSON DI COSTANZO, now living at Chapel Hill, N. C., graduated from Mitchel College and from Flora McDonald. She has taught in the following schools: Amity, Mount Ulla, and Nahunta.

GILMER HARRIS graduated from State College. For some years he taught Agriculture in the Robinsville School, and is now

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Agricultural Teacher in the Forest City School, Forest City, N. C.

MRS. MARY AREY POU attended Woman's College, Greensboro, N. C., after which she taught in the schools of Mount Ulla and at Barium Springs. She has also rendered a large service to her community, County, and State in the field of Home Demonstration Club Work, serving in 1929 as State President of the North Carolina Home Demonstration Club. She was then made "Master Farm Home Maker," and is today President of the State Guild composed of the nineteen women in this state who have been honored with the title "Master Farm Home Maker."

MRS. BEULAH AREY EUBANKS graduated from Mitchel College. After teaching Home Economics for several years in Lowe's Grove School, Durham County, N. C., she was made Home Demonstration Agent for that county. Her untimely death came after only four years in that important service.

MRS. RUTH AREY MCCLURE, after her regular College work, took a special Home Economics Course in Columbia University. After teaching this course two years in Bahama High School in Durham County, N. C., she served for several years as Home Demonstration Agent for Montgomery County, Tennessee, and for some time as District Agent. Also, she has continued an active interest in the work of her Church, and is today serving her second term as President of the Presbyterian Auxiliary of Nashville Presbytery, Synod of Tennessee.

Part of the fine record of MISS ESTELLE FLEMING has been referred to. From 1923 to 1925 she was one of the Matrons at Barium Springs Orphanage. Later she took nurses' training in Richmond, Va.

MRS. DOROTHY DRY COWAN, after attending Mars Hill College and the Assembly's Training School, devoted the summer of 1936 or a part of it, to teaching in the Daily Vacation Bible Schools in Ashe County, N. C., and the following summer in Patrick County, Va. She continues her active interest by helping in Bible School work in her husband's Churches each summer in the Stokes-Surry Field.

MRS. MARY COWAN GRAYBEAL attended Woman's College, Greensboro, N. C. She is now living in Old Fort, N. C., has proved herself an outstanding woman, both in her Church work and usefulness in other ways. She has been very active as a Sunday School Teacher, leader in Woman's Auxiliary and Personal Workers Group. Besides devoting her time with such earnestness of consecration in Church work, she has been active in many other promotional matters—in the Parent-Teacher Association, has been President of her local U. D. C. Chapter, was instrumental in the establishment of a community library for her town, and served four years as President of the Federation of Women's Clubs

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of Old Fort.

It is apparent in a large section of this paper that the parents in Elmwood Church have been unusually faithful in providing their children with good educational opportunities. MRS. MARY LOUISE SHELL BEAVER attended the Appalachian Teachers College at Boone, N. C. Both WILLARD SHELL and WESLEY SHELL attended State College.

JOE BILL POU graduated from State College as an Honor Student in 1938, having in 1937 won the Danforth Fellowship. He was a member of the Alpha Zeta and Phi Kappa Phi Fraternities, and was listed in "Who's Who" of American College Students.

PAUL THOMPSON had a very remarkable record at State College. He was a member of Alpha Zeta and Phi Kappa Phi Fraternities, was Assistant in the English Department in his Junior and Senior years, and graduated in 1939, standing fourth in College rank in a class of 285, and first place in School rank in a class of 75. At his graduation he was awarded a fellowship to Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He will have two years of Post-graduate work in that institution.

Members of the Hendley Family have been outstanding in their usefulness in a number of ways. They were reared in the Sunday School here, most of them uniting with this Church. CHARLES HENDLEY graduated from the University of North Carolina with the A. B. degree, and received the M. A. degree from Columbia University, New York City. For a number of years he was Principal of Cornelius High School, Cornelius, N. C. For several years he taught History in the High School of Patterson, New Jersey. For the past eighteen years he has been on the Faculty of the George Washington School in New York, and is today head of the Teachers Union of New York City. Two members of this family have demonstrated remarkable gifts in the field of Journalism. FLOYD HENDLEY, who attended the University of North Carolina, was for two years with the Charlotte News, Charlotte, N. C., four years with the Greensboro News, and for the past nine years has been Managing Editor of the Greensboro Record, Greensboro, N. C. MRS. DAISY HENDLEY GOLD pursued her College studies in the North Carolina College for Women in Greensboro. Upon leaving College she took a position as Reporter for the Statesville Sentinel, and later with the Statesville Landmark. During the World War she was a Reporter and Feature Writer for the Piedmont Daily in Greenville, South Carolina, and for nearly twenty years has been Managing Editor of the Wilson Daily Times, Wilson, N. C., which position she holds today. She is the author of two books, the first one, "Tides of Life," was written several years ago. The other one, a novel,

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

is expected to be ready for the press soon. Its title is "Those Bitter Years."

It is most appropriate to give a few words concerning MISS SALLIE HAIR, not only a faithful member, but one of the most devoted Christians in the life of this Church. It is one of the writer's boyhood recollections that when the Church's membership was perhaps at its smallest figure, and it was difficult to secure much attendance at Sunday School and the other services, even on very rainy Sundays at times when only two or three came, Miss Sallie was always present. When she died a few years ago, this splendid tribute appeared in the Statesville Daily, written by one of her friends in the Elmwood Church: "The entire community feels impoverished with the loss of this beloved one. Her character was that of a real Christian. Her life portrayed the glory, the honor, and the beauty of the Christian religion. Her life was like her Lord's. She poured it out for others. She loved to do good. This was her aim in life. She spent it in doing only that which was good and beautiful. In all life she exhibited a gentleness and tenderness that was indeed most beautiful. She was an active Church worker, and was most faithful in attending Church services, her place in Church being seldom vacant. To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

CONCLUSION

The first fifty years in the history of this Church have passed. Its work was started when the community was much smaller than it is now, when Agriculture and Saw-Milling were almost the only occupations here (the Gilbert Lumber Mills were then in this neighborhood). While Agriculture is still the principal occupation, the little village has grown considerably, and the community has a much larger population than it had fifty years ago. You now live on or in easy reach of one of the best highways in the State, over which you can travel to Salisbury or Statesville in a very few minutes, so that many can still live in this fine Rural Community and attend daily their work in the city.

The generation of men and women who were here fifty years ago, have now nearly all passed into the Great Beyond. They were men and women of courage, of devotion to duty, of steadfastness in the faith. So, they have laid the foundations, and have wrought valiantly, leaving to us the heritage of wider horizons and bigger opportunities. Upon these foundations we may build with hope and confidence as we enter the second half century in the life of Elmwood Presbyterian Church.

HISTORY OF ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"I love Thy Kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
"I love Thy Church, O God!
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.
"Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heav'n."

Fleming, John Kerr.
History of Elmwood Presbyterian Church,



3 3091 00142 6220

GAYLORD			PRINTED IN U.S.A.

GAYLORD

PRINTED IN U.S.A.



NORTH CAROLINIANA

RESTRICTED

